

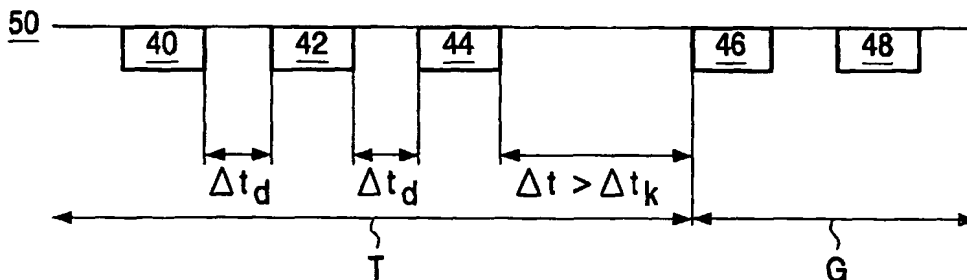
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(54) Title: CIRCUIT FOR DETECTING GROUND OFFSET OF PARTS OF A NETWORK



(57) **Abstract:** To improve a method as well as a circuit arrangement (100) for detecting the ground offset of parts of a network system, more particularly for checking the ground contact between network control units where data are sent and received over at least one bus system so that, on the one hand, prior to a breakdown event already a warning can be obtained in this respect that the state of the ground connection between the control units is no longer optimal but, on the other hand, ground defects are not shown by mistake, there is proposed 'a! that in the idle state at least one bus line provided for receiving data and/or of at least one receiver line (24), after a predefinable first time period has elapsed, the level voltage (14) of this at least one bus line is scanned and compared with at least one predefinable limit or reference potential value, 'b! in that if the limit or reference potential value is exceeded, at least one ground error signal is generated, and 'c! in that in dependence on the fact whether until a predefinable second time period has elapsed, which is started at the same time as the predefinable first time period and is longer than the predefinable first time period, 'c.1! the idle state of the at least one bus line or of the at least one receiver line (24) is still there, or 'c.2! the idle state of the at least one bus line or of the at least one receiver line (24) is no longer there, the ground error signal is acknowledged or not acknowledged, respectively.

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